

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 29, and ending at page 4, line 13, with the following:

The annular plates 10 which make up the interior of the mold 12 are shown in Figs. 1 -5 include an inner hole defined by the inner diameter 15 and outer diameter 16. For a segmented mold embodiment plates 10 can be divided, for example into four or more parts (eight segments are commonly used in segmented molds), as indicated by the dash lines 18 in Fig. 2. Although some plates may be of greater thickness (see Fig. 6), the majority of the plates are typically 1.000 inch or less in thickness, with their sides parallel in the preferred constructions. From the inner diameter (Figs. 2, 3 and 4) at least one side of the plate is machined to a substantially uniform depth and over a predetermined area to produce a gap 20 when the plates are stacked together. The gaps 20 are quite thin, in the range of approximately 0.002 to 0.008 inches in depth and extend inward, away from the inner radius, for approximately 1.00 inch (2.54 cm) or less. In an actual embodiment of the invention a gap 20 in the order of approximately 0.004 inch provided adequate venting, while substantially preventing flow of rubber into the gaps.

Please replace the paragraph on page 4 beginning at line 14 and ending at line 17 with the following:

In the outer region (full thickness) of the plates, vent passages 22 are formed (Fig. 3) at a depth and width of approximately 0.060 inches, and extending from, and connecting with, the gaps 20 to the outer radius of the plates, and out the back or exterior of the mold.